

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03404 221824Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/100 W

-----039983 230306Z /65

R 231800Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA FRME
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3404

E.O. 1165W: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MARR, NG, CD
SUBJ: WEST AFRICAN DEFENSE PACT

REF: A. NIAMEY 2914, B. NIAMEY 3283

1. ON JULY 19 I ASKED FONMIN DJERMAKOYE ABOUT NIGERS POSITION ON
CEAO DEFENSE PACT, REFERRING TO SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE
STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE TO ALIIAN PASS(REFTEL B)
SUGGESTING THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO SUCH PACTS. FONMIN REPLIED
THAT NIGER HAD ASQDD FOR TIME TO STUDY PACT AND HAD
ASKED FOR MEETING OF QTE EXPERTS UNQUOTE TO DISCUSS IT. HE
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SAID THAT IN ABIDJAN PARTICIPANTS WERE SIMPLY HANDED COPY OF
TEXT AND THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AND NIGER FELT IT COULD
NOT JOIN IN SUCH PACT WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. AFTER
HASTILY ADDING THAT NIGER WAS NOT AGAINST PACT, HE COMMENTED
THAT POSITION OF NIGER WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF OTHER

COUNTRIES SUCH AS SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. NIGER HAD NEIGHBORS

THAT OTHERS DO NOT HAVE. NIGER HAS TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY
COUNTRIES AGAINST WHICH PACT MAY BE DESIGNED TO BE SHIELD.
NIGER JOINS WHITE AFRICA WITH BLACK AFRICA, BRIDGING
RELIGIONS, CULTURES AND IDEOLOGIES.

2. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR NIGER TO ENTER INTO SUCH
A PACT IN SHADOW OF OMINOUS ALGERIAN PRESENCE (REFTEL A) BUT
AT SOME POINT IT WILL HAVE TO FISH OR CUT BAIT. KOUNCTHES
INTERVIEW WITH ALGERIAN PRESS WAS DIRECTED TO SPECIAL
AUDIENCE BUT NIGER PLANS TO SIT ON FENCE AWHILE LONGER.JAMES
BTOLW

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NNN

Message Attributes

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